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MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADSO FILE

Subject: Russian Language Lessons

1. Mr. William J. Kelly, Director of Personnel, telephonically contacted the undersigned on 6 February to inquire whether OSO would be interested in participating in a special Russian language program being set up for the overt side of the Agency. He stated that a basic intermediate and technical Russian language course of two hours per day, two days per week and eight months' duration was to be undertaken by two consultants in Temporary H Building. He offered to clear two additional consultants to teach a similar course to OSO/OFC personnel in L Building.

2. After discussing this proposal with the Chiefs TRD, STB and the ADSO, the general consensus was that such a program was not warranted at this time. This Office presently has a good working arrangement through TRD with the [REDACTED] and other language schools for the training of OSO personnel in Russian and other languages in a secure manner. OSO currently selects for Russian language training only those people who have a direct need for such training. It was believed that the program as outlined by the Director of Personnel would be difficult to administer because of the innumerable applicants for attendance that would be forthcoming. It is not believed that OSO personnel can be spared from their work for five to six hours per week to study a language which might not be of any value to them in any future assignment.

3. The decision not to participate in the proposal of the Director of Personnel was conveyed to him by the undersigned by telephone at which time he was thanked on behalf of OSO for bringing this matter to the attention of this Office.

WJ2.
 [REDACTED]
 Executive Officer

cc: TRD ✓